

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 00169 291216Z

46

ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SCA-01 SY-04 INSE-00 /015 W

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R 291132Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8622
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

UNCLAS KARACHI 0169

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PK

SUBJ: THE FALSE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN VISA APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 016879

1. IT IS DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE HARD DATA ON THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM ALTHOUGH IT IS WIDESPREAD HERE. ON INDICATOR IS THE RATE OF FRAUD DISCOVERED THROUGH INVESTIGATION OF VISA APPLICANTS AND APPLICANTS FOR LABOR CERTIFICATION. OF THE 70 INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED SINCE AUGUST 1974, 50 HAVE ESTABLISHED FRAUD. DUE TO LIMITED RESOURCES, POST IS ABLE TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS ONLY ON A SPOT CHECK BASIS. OBVIOUSLY INSTANCES OF FRAUD REMAIN UNDETECTED, OR ARE DISCOVERED ONLY AFTER VISA ISSUANCE. FISCAL IMPACT IN THE U.S. CANNOT BE JUDGED ACCURATELY HERE, ALTHOUGH ALMOST INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED WHO REACH THE U.S. ARE EMPLOYED, AND WHERE FRAUD IS DISCOVERED, EFFORT OF INS OFFICERS IS EXPENDED IN TRACKING AND PROCESSING THAT CASE. FISCAL IMPACT HERE IS SALARY OF INVESTIGATOR PLUS TIME OF CONOFF AND OTHER STAFF MEMBERS USED TO PROCESS AND INVESTIGATE THOSE APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE FRAUDULENT.

2. THE FRAUDULENT TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED ARE VARIED, LIMITED ONLY BY THE IMAGINATION OF THE APPLICANT. THE MOST COMMON TECHNIQUE, OF COURSE, IS VERBAL MISREPRESENTATION. ALSO COMMON ARE FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED PASSPORTS, MULTIPLE PASSPORTS, USE OF "STAND-INS" AND PHOTO SUBSTITUTION; FRAUDULENT DEGREES AND LETTERS OF EMPLOYMENT AND EXPERIENCE; INTERVENTION OF INFLUENTIAL FRIENDS AND RELATIVES;

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 KARACH 00169 291216Z

FRAUDULENT AFFIDAVITS OF SUPPORT AND FRAUDULENT BANK STATEMENTS;

MARRIAGE FRAUD BY NIV HOLDERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING PERMANENT RESIDENCE (AS INS CAN CONFIRM), ETC. FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTATION OF ALL TYPES IS READILY AVAILABLE WHILE FILES OF LEGITIMATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE SO DISORGANIZED AS TO PROVIDE LITTLE OR NO BASIS FOR CORROBORATION. IN ADDITION CORRUPTION OF LOCAL OFFICIALS IS WIDE-SPREAD AND THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS FOR A FEE IS NOT UNHEARD OF.

3. THE TYPICAL INDIVIDUAL USING THESE TECHNIQUES IS IN HIS TWENTIES, MALE, SINGLE, MIDDLE CLASS, AND OFTEN A MEMBER OF AN ETHNIC OR RELIGIOUS MINORITY (INCLUDING MINORITY MUSLIM SECTS), SEEKING A B-1, B-2, F-1 VISA. THIS PROFILE, HOWEVER, IS FAR FROM EXHAUSTIVE, AS FRAUDULENT MEANS HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED BY INDIVIDUALS IN ALL STRATA OF SOCIETY.

4. WITH THE AVAILABILITY OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTATION AND THE FREQUENCY OF MISREPRESENTATION, POST WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE RESOURCES TO (A) INVESTIGATE MANY MORE APPLICANTS THAN IS CURRENTLY POSSIBLE. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, NECESSITATE THE EMPLOYMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL; (B) EXTENSION OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM WOULD GREATLY ASSIST OUR EFFORTS; (C) GENERAL CHAPMAN'S CONCEPT OF "TURNING OFF THE MAGNET" BY PASSAGE OF LEGISLATION TO PENALIZE THE EMPLOYERS OF ILLEGAL ALIENS WOULD BE THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IN CONTROLLING THE MOTIVATION FOR PEOPLE TO EMPLOY FRAUDULENT MEANS TO ENTER THE U.S.; (D) BOOST IN INS ENFORCEMENT STAFF; (E) MORE DEFINITIVE REGULATIONS TO ASSIST CONSULAR OFFICERS IN DETERMINING AN APPLICANT'S INTENT TO REMAIN OR SEEK EMPLOYMENT IN THE U.S.; AND (F) VIGOROUS PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KARACH00169
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750032-0995
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750111/aaaaajkb.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VOE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 016879
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>; RELEASED <28 Jul 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE FALSE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN VISA APPLICATIONS
TAGS: CVIS, PK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006